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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY	Germany (Russian Zone)	DATE DISTR.	7 March 1950
SUBJECT	Uranium Mining in Bergen Area	NO. OF PAGES	4
PLACE ACQUIRED	[redacted]	NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)	2 (2 pages) 25X1A
DATE OF INFO.	[redacted]	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	[redacted]

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a. The discoveries in the Bergen district led to new prospecting activities for uranium-containing mother rocks. The Object 25 (Auerbach) was made a prospecting object to intensify these prospecting operations.

Geological findings proved that uranium-containing rocks were imbedded in quartz veins, generally running N-S. The prospecting operations therefore were done exclusively south from Bergen where sizable impregnations were assumed.

Preparatory clearing work was started in April 1949, immediately followed by surveying and marking activities. The prospected field was in the Lottengruen-Mechelgruen area.

It was planned to continue the prospecting operations to the south and reach the area north of Bad-Brambach early in July 1949.

b. No data on the uranium content of the mother rock prospected in the Bergen district has become known in the Object 25 by 30 June 1949. It was assumed that the uranium percentage was not very high as this district is very far from the Aue uranium center. However, prospecting will be continued for an undetermined period. According to source, the slight activity of the rock is favorably balanced by easy mining conditions. It is believed that the varying labor assignments are not in contradiction to this observation. One should not give too much weight to this fact for, as shown in the past, the Wismuth Corporation is rather quick in its decision and concentrates the available labor on short notice for increasing the mining output.

c. According to source, the exploratory activities in this area meanwhile have been ended. The Soviet-controlled operations have generally developed along more systematic lines. It cannot be said whether the brisk Soviet personnel changes replacing the former economic experts by actual mining experts were responsible for this improvement.

2. Development of Object 25 - Auerbach - since 28 March 1949:

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a. The mine shaft opened in a sand pit near Schreiersgruen (M 51/K 22) designated "Mine No. 7" is part of the Object 25.

b. The excavation of additional shafts may be expected.

c. Soviet Capt. Engineer Runyantsev, 30 years old and an expert, is the manager.

3. "Mine No 6" of the Object 25:

a. Work assignment: The work force of eight hundred men was employed by the Mine No. 6 in Bergen at the end of April 1949. They were mostly assigned to clearing and prospecting operations. Two hundred of them were returned to the mines No. 2 through 5 in Tannenbergsthal early in May 1949. Six hundred workmen were employed in the Mine No. 6 on 30 June 1949. No specified information of the underground prospecting and clearing work forces can be given because of the constant change of work assignments.

b. Prospecting operations as of 30 June 1949:

The operations in the gallery driven from the sand pit at the Oelsnitz-Bergen highway to the south were suspended as original expectations were not fulfilled. A promising quartz vein was hit in the initial stage of mining operations and it was hoped that favorable conditions would continue. However, the gallery was not closed.

The shaft driven in the former sump No. 2 hit a rich quartz vein at a depth of 65 feet running N-NW to S-SE. This shaft is now progressively sunk (see Annex 2). The mouth of this shaft was 65 feet deep with a diameter of 13 feet. The underground level drifts are 8½ feet wide and 6½ feet high. The crosscuts driven from these levels are shown on Annex 2. The excavation of additional crosscuts at 65 to 130 feet intervals may be expected. According to source, the impregnations in this quartz vein have a comparatively high activity.

The previously reported prospecting sumps No. 1 and 3 through 6 have developed into so-called prospecting shafts. Additional prospecting shafts have the numerical designations No. 7 through 10 and 12.

The mouths of the prospecting sumps No. 1 and 3 presently measure 11½ x 7½ feet; the depth of both sumps is 130 feet. The mouths of the remaining sumps measure 8½ x 6½ feet, the depth being only 65 feet.

Small levels with crosscuts at 65 to 130 feet intervals are driven from all these prospecting shafts to connect the following prospecting shafts: No. 4 and 5, shafts No. 6 and 8, shafts No. 9 and 10, shafts No. 3 and 12. The last mentioned connection is especially vigorously pushed.

The area north and south of the sand pit is also crisscrossed by numerous ditches. If additional prospecting shafts should be sunk in these ditches it will be reported later.

The radiometric tests in this district are continued but they were gradually shifted to the south into the Lottengruen and Mechelgruen area.

c. Production figures of the Bergen Mine (Mine No. 6):

Workings in the Mine No. 6 were on a small scale in April 1949. The mined ores consisted practically of only large amounts of test materials (about three hundred boxes, i.e., 9 to 12 tons from 25 March 1949 to the end of April 1949.) A mining quota of 230 so-called "running meters" (750 feet) was fixed for the first time in May 1949. This quota was fulfilled.

The quota increased to 300 "running meters" (1,000 feet) for June 1949, which was not met.

The manager of the mine stated that only 60 "running meters" (200 feet) were reached during the first 10 days of June, the poor results being caused by deficient pumps. Work was considerably delayed by water influx.

4. The mines in Tannenbergsthal:

a. The mines No. 2, 3,,4 and 5 were also part of the Object 25. Mining operations were especially intensified here. The mines No. 2 and 5 had good results.

b. The production was about a thousand boxes (25 kg or 100 kg each?) in May 1949. This would mean an average of 25 tons of uranium-copper-glimmer per shaft. Recently the mined materials were sent to the dressing plant in Lengenfeld 031.

5. Dressing plant of the Mine No. 1 in Tannenbergsthal, Object No. 32:

a. The dressing plant of the mine No. 1 resumed operation but only inferior pitchblende was dressed here. Pitchblende of better quality was processed in the dressing plant of the "David-Richt" Mine in Freiberg and in the Schneeberg dressing plant.

b. The ore was dressed in the dressing plant of Mine No. 1 only by mechanical-physical means. The prospected materials were first crushed in three ball mills and the pitchblende was then sorted in the washing process. The dressing plant consisted of shaking grates on which the materials were rinsed with water. Because of its higher specific weight, the pitchblende dropped through the grates while the waste was washed away. The produced concentrate was packed in boxes.

6. The Freiberg Area:

Only the dressing plant of the David-Richt Mine was still in Freiberg. It had been considerably enlarged. The work forces of all other Freiberg mines were suddenly transferred to St. Georgenthal in the last 10 days of March 1949. Quartz lodes with dense pitchblende deposits were prospected in St. Georgenthal - just as in the Aue district. Mining of such lodes started immediately but results so far have been poor.

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The new uranium discoveries near Bergen which resulted in a western extension of the restricted area were previously reported. The present report supplies information on the activities of the later established Object 25, especially on the expansion of the Mine No. 6 with its prospecting shafts No. 1 through 10 and 12. According to this report predominantly exploratory and opening operations were being done by the middle of 1949.

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25X1X Whether operations have now become more systematic [redacted] cannot be confirmed on the basis of these indications.

No detailed records are available on the Freiberg (David-Richt Mine) and Schneeberg, dressing plants used for processing high grade pitchblende. A dressing plant at the David-Mine in Freiberg is confirmed by the inventory of the Himmelfahrt-Fundgrube Mine*.

2 Annexes: 1. Bergen, Mine No. 6
2. Bergen, Prospecting Shaft No. 2

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Annex 11

Sketch No. 1

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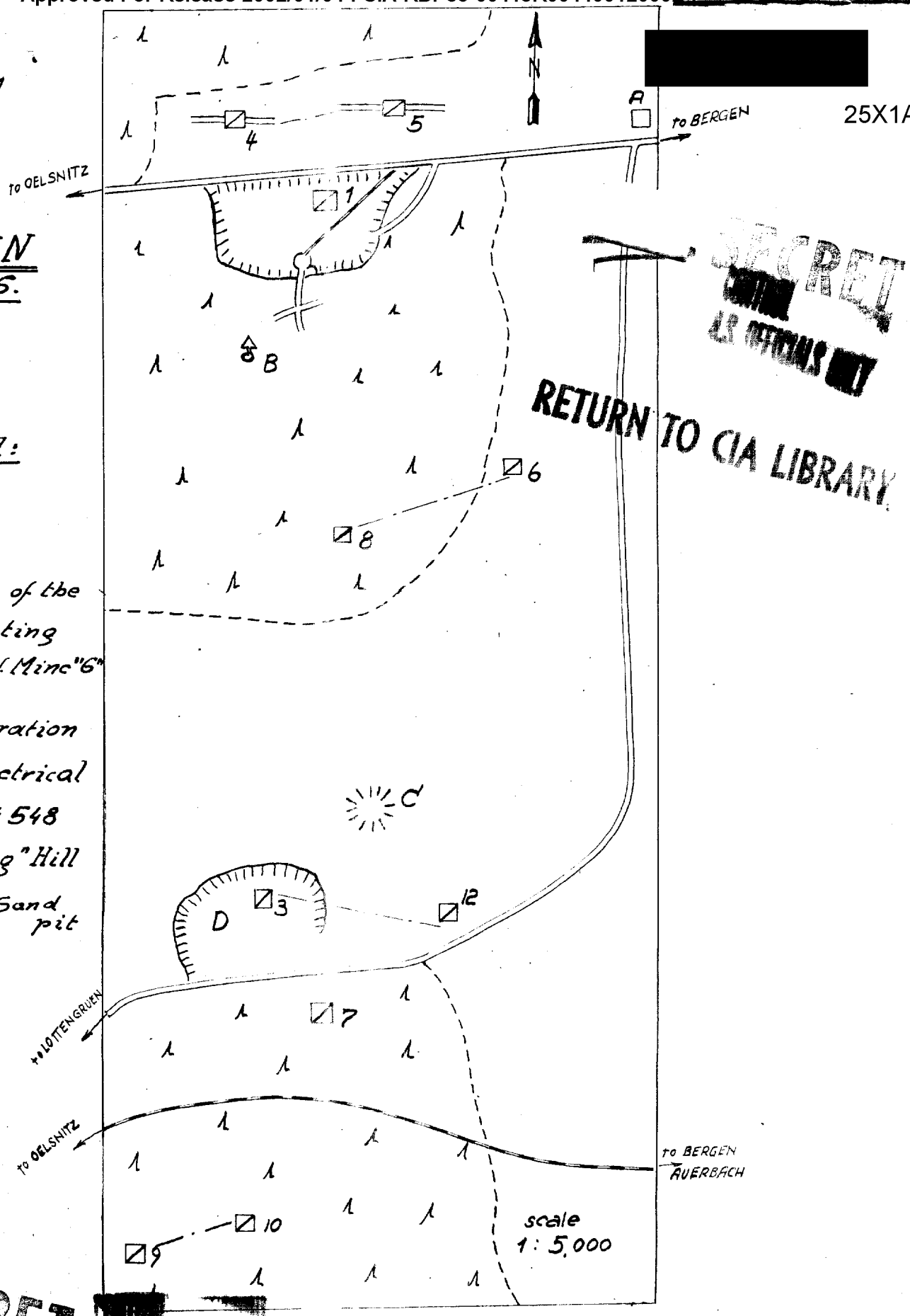
BERGEN
Mine No 6.



Legend:

1-7, 9, 10, 12 Numbers of the prospecting shafts of Mine "6"

A Administration

B trigonometrical point 548

C "Streuberg" Hill

D "Seifert" Sand pit

Annex 2

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BERGEN, Prospecting Shaft No 2

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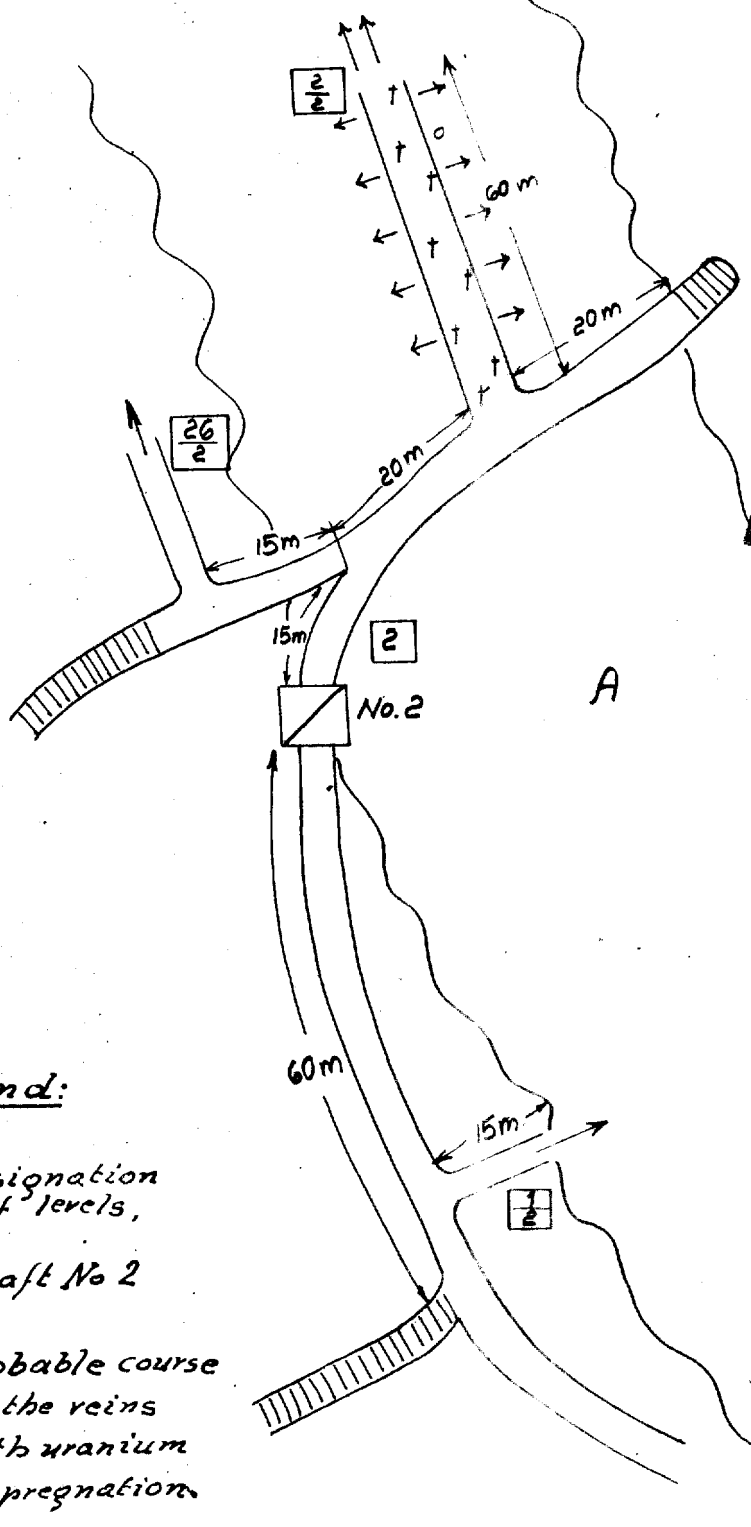
Sketch No. [redacted]



Legend:

2/2	Designation of levels,
2	Shaft No 2
A	Probable course of the veins with uranium impregnation.

scale 1 : 500

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